

What is claimed is:

1. A biosensor comprising:
a support substrate,
an electrically conductive coating positioned on the support substrate, the
5 coating being formed to define electrodes and a code pattern, wherein there is
sufficient contrast between the conductive coating and the substrate such that the code
pattern is discernible, and
at least one reagent positioned on at least one electrode.
2. The biosensor of claim 1 wherein the code pattern is a bar code.
- 10 3. The biosensor of claim 1 wherein the conductive coating is gold.
4. The biosensor of claim 1 wherein the code pattern is optically
discernible.
5. The biosensor of claim 1 further comprising a second electrically
conductive coating positioned on the code pattern.
- 15 6. The biosensor of claim 1 wherein the code pattern is electrically
discernible.
7. The biosensor of claim 1 wherein the code pattern includes recesses
formed in the conductive coating.
8. The biosensor of claim 1 wherein the support substrate includes
20 opposite first and second ends and the code pattern is positioned adjacent to the
second end.
9. The biosensor of claim 1 further comprising a cover substrate
extending across at least a portion of the electrodes.
10. The biosensor of claim 1 wherein code pattern includes pads that are
25 spaced-apart from the surrounding electrically conductive coating.
11. The biosensor of claim 10 wherein the pads are isolated from one
another.
12. The biosensor of claim 10 wherein the pads are interconnected.
13. A biosensor comprising:
30 a support substrate,
an electrically conductive coating positioned on the support substrate, the
coating being formed to define electrodes and a code pattern, wherein there is
sufficient contrast between the conductive coating and the substrate such that the code
pattern is discernible, and

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a cover cooperating with the support substrate to define a channel and at least a portion of the electrodes are positioned in the channel.

14. The biosensor of claim 13 wherein the code pattern is optically discernible.

5 15. The biosensor of claim 13 further comprising a second electrically conductive coating positioned on the code pattern.

16. The biosensor of claim 13 wherein the code pattern is electrically discernible.

17. The biosensor of claim 13 wherein the support substrate includes
10 opposite first and second ends and the code pattern is positioned adjacent to the second end.

18. The biosensor of claim 17 wherein the electrodes cooperate to define an array positioned adjacent to the first end.

19. The biosensor of claim 18 wherein the channel extends from the first
15 end to the array.

20. The biosensor of claim 13 wherein the code pattern is a bar code.

21. The biosensor of claim 20 wherein the conductive coating is gold.

22. The biosensor of claim 13 wherein code pattern includes pads that are spaced-apart from the surrounding electrically conductive coating.

20 23. The biosensor of claim 22 wherein the pads are isolated from one another.

24. The biosensor of claim 22 wherein the pads are interconnected.

25. A method of forming a biosensor, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a substrate coated with a electrically conductive material,
25 ablating the electrically conductive material to form electrodes and a code pattern, wherein there is sufficient contrast between the conductive coating and the substrate such that the code pattern is discernible, and

applying a reagent to at least one of the electrodes.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the ablating step includes the step of
30 laser ablating the electrically conductive material.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the ablating step includes forming a bar code shaped code pattern.

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28. The method of claim 25 wherein the ablating step includes forming a code pattern that includes pads isolated from the surrounding electrically conductive material.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the pads are interconnected.

5 30. A biosensor comprising:

a support substrate,

an electrically conductive coating positioned on the support substrate, the coating being formed to define electrodes and means for identifying the biosensor, wherein there is sufficient contrast between the conductive coating and the substrate
10 such that the identifying means is discernible.

31. The biosensor of claim 30 further comprising a cover that cooperates with the support substrate to define a channel and at least a portion of the electrodes are positioned in the channel.

32. The biosensor of claim 30 wherein the identifying means is a bar code.

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